

Remarks

In the Office Action of December 18, 2009, claims 6-7, 9-11 and 13-19 are allowed. Claims 2-3 are objected to, but are deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1 and 4-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended, without prejudice, solely to expedite the allowance of this application. Claim 2 has been cancelled.

Allowable Claims

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 6-7, 9-11 and 13-19 are allowed, and that claims 2-3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claim 1 is rejected as being unpatentable over Chang et al., US 2004/0203771 A1 (hereinafter, "Chang") in view of Rebo et al., US 2008/0119184 A1 (hereinafter, "Rebo") and Achour (US2002/0137518).

Claims 4 and 5 are rejected as being unpatentable over Chang in view of Rebo and further in view of Donovan, US 2002/0041590 A1).

In the Response to Applicants' arguments (Office Action, pages 2-3), the Examiner maintained the position that the DLR (data location register 50) in Chang is combined with the GAN (general ATM switch network 100) as one unit, and since another patent, Nam's US patent 7,356,339, from the same assignee as Chang calls a GAN a gateway, the Examiner considers the GAN in Chang as also being a gateway.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's interpretation, as explained in previous responses.

Without conceding to the Office Action's characterization of the newly cited references, Achour and Donovan, Applicants have nonetheless amended claim 1, without prejudice, solely to expedite allowance of this application.

Since claim 2 is allowable if rewritten in independent form, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the feature from claim 2. As such, the amended claim 1 is allowable over the cited references. Claim 2 has been canceled.

Claims 3-5, which depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1, are also allowable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims pending in this patent application are in condition for allowance. Entry of this amendment, reconsideration of the application, and allowance of all the claims are respectfully solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring adverse final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner contact the Applicant's attorney, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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/Wan Yee Cheung/
Wan Yee Cheung
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 42,410
Phone: 609-734-6834

U.S. Patent Operations
Thomson Licensing Inc.
P.O. Box 5312
Princeton, New Jersey 08540